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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION N
10/603,952	06/25/2003	Peter Lyon Harris	297912001602	3111
25224	7590	10/18/2004	EXAMINER	
MORRISON & FOERSTER, LLP			LANDREM, KAMRIN R	
555 WEST FIFTH STREET			ART UNIT	
SUITE 3500			PAPER NUMBER	
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013-1024			3738	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/603,952	Applicant(s) HARRIS ET AL.	
	Examiner Kamrin R. Landrem	Art Unit 3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

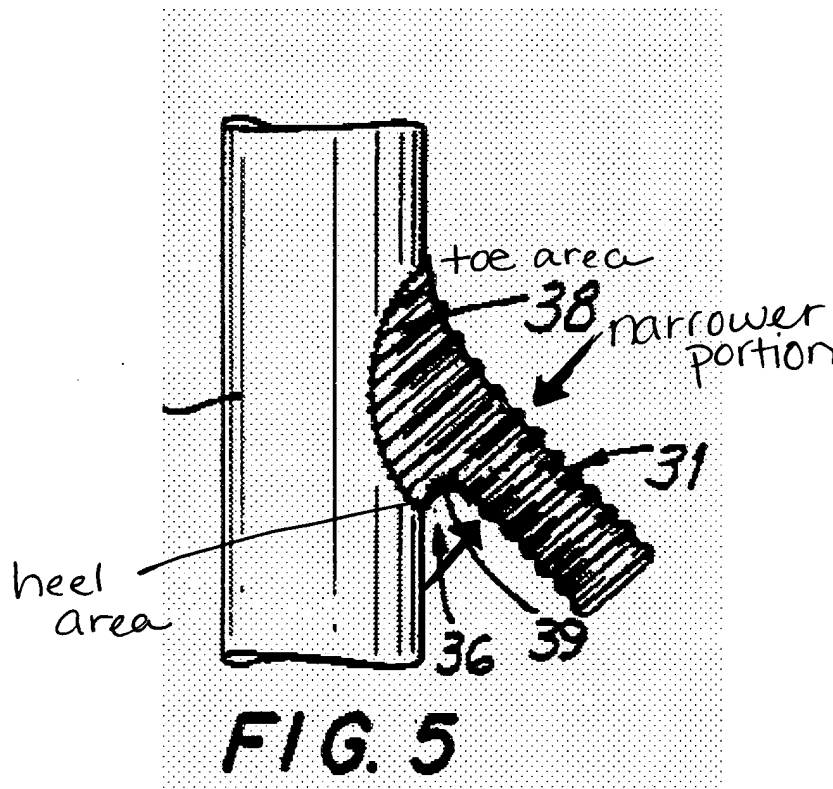
Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ehrefeld (USPN 5,156,619).

With reference to Figures 4 and 5, Ehrenfeld discloses a vascular prosthesis composed of Dacron comprising a tube 31 and a first end formation 38 configured for connection to a blood vessel 24. The second end formation 34 is much smaller in diameter than first end formation 38. Tube 31 further comprises a narrower portion 39 prior to the commencement of said end formation 38 that forms an enlarged chamber. The diameter of the chamber that lies parallel with the vessel is greater than the diameter of the vessel (when transversely measured as in claim 2). The first diameter also comprises a heel 36 and toe 38. The transition between the tube 31 and the toe 38 is outwardly convex before a final concave portion. Heel 36 is generally outwardly concave. The prior art disclosed by Ehrefeld also anticipates a tubular graft comprising a heel and toe wherein the toe is outwardly convex before a final concave portion (see Figure 2). The vascular prosthesis of Ehrefeld is capable of allowing localized movement of blood having a non-laminar nature.

Please note the intended use, as set forth in the claims, carries no weight in the absence of any distinguishing structure. It has been held that the recitation that an element is “adapted to”

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perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to perform. It does not constitute limitation in any patentable sense. In re Hutchinson, 69 UPSQ 138. In this case since the reference structurally meets the claim it is fully capable of performing the function.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrenfeld.

Ehrenfeld as discussed above discloses the invention as claimed. Ehrenfeld discloses that the first diameter is greater than the second diameter however lacks the disclosure of the specific diameters of 14mm to 36mm. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modified the device of Ehrenfeld to have the specific diameters as claimed since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in sized is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art (see MPEP 2144.04).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/16/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regards to applicant's arguments concerning a narrower portion the Examiner inadvertently typed the incorrect reference numeral however it was indicated in Figure 5 (and as shown in the labeled figure above) that the tube 31 is narrower at the portion around 39, just prior to the commencement of end 38. The prior art as disclosed by Ehrefeld anticipates applicant's claimed vascular prosthesis.

The objections to the specification and claim 5 are hereby withdrawn in view of applicant's response filed 7/16/04.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamrin R. Landrem whose telephone number is 703-305-8061. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 703-308-2111. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


David H. Willse
Primary Examiner

Kamrin Landrem
Examiner
AU 3738